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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/519,437	05/16/2005	Guoshun Deng	CU-4042 RJS	2475

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EXAMINER
NGUYEN, THAN VINH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2187	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
Office Action Summary	10/519,437	DENG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Than Nguyen	2187	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS,
WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>08 June 2005</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is. closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>26-41</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>26-41</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>29 December 2004</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/8/05</u>.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 26-41 are pending.

2.   The IDS, filed 6/8/05, has been considered.

3.   Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers

have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

4.   The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly

indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: Method and Apparatus For Accessing an Encrypted

Memory Card.

5.   The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Applicant uses the

term "information prompt" throughout the specification and claims. This term is not a

commonly used term in this technology. Applicant also did not define this term in the

specification. Its usage is unclear and introduces vagueness and ambiguity. Applicant should

clarify the specification and claims by defining this term or use another to correctly describe the

invention. Applicant should note that no new matter can be introduced into the specification.

All amendment to the specification/claims should include locations of support for the

amendment. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7.   Claims 26-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

8.   As to claim 26, Applicant claims an information prompt module but does not describe its function. The name of the claimed element is not commonly used in the art. Thus, one of ordinary skills would not know the function of the claimed information prompt module. Therefore, the claim is vague and indefinite.

9.   Claims 27-34 are rejected for incorporating the error of claim 26.

10.   Claim 27 recites the limitation "the password verification" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

11.   Claim 35 recites the limitation "the password" in line 12. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

12.   Claim 35 recites the limitation "the predetermined setting" in line 13. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

13.   Claim 35 recites the limitation "the necessary prompt information" in line 15. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

14.   Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In line 16, Applicant claims "perform the information prompt". This language is vague and indefinite. Is the information prompt a command or is it data? Clarification is required.

15. Claims 36-41 are rejected for incorporating the error of claim 35.

16. Claim 37 recites the limitation "the operation mode of the information prompt module" in

lien 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

17. Claim 37 recites the limitation "the information prompt storage region setting software"

in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

18. Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for

failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as

the invention. This claim does not further limit the parent claim since it does not further limit the

method. Applicant further describes the prompt information storage region and

encryption/decryption module but does not positively perform any particular step. To further

limit a method claim, Applicant should positively indicate a further step that is performed by the

method.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

19. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

20. Claims 26-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being Hirota et al (US 6,606,707).

As to claim 26:

21. Hirota teaches a semiconductor storage apparatus (computer system; Fig. 3-4) for

realizing information prompt, **comprising**: a power source module providing power to the

semiconductor storage apparatus (power source VDD; Fig. 5; 10/6-10); a controller module

having a firmware for realizing the information prompt and data access (command control unit

322; 10/66-11/10); an interface module (interface; USB/ATA/SCSI/network; 8/44; 9/39-42;

12/25-30; Fig. 3-4; a semiconductor storage medium module having a prompt information

storage region for storing prompt information (flash memory 303; Fig. 3-4); and an information

prompt module, wherein the controller module, the interface module, the semiconductor storage

medium module, and the information prompt module are electrically connected to each other

(authentication area 332; 12/19-34).

As to claim 27:

22.   Hirota teaches the firmware supports the password verification of the prompt information

storage region (password authentication; 8/12-30).

As to claim 28,41:

23.   Hirota teaches the prompt information storage region is provided with an independent or

universal encryption/decryption module, and the encryption/decryption module encrypts the data

to be stored in the prompt information storage region, and decrypts the data read from the prompt

information storage region (encryption/decryption circuit 327; 11/50-64).

As to claim 29:

24.   Hirota teaches the interface module is one of a USB interface, IEEE 1394 interface,

Bluetooth interface, IrDA infrared interface, HomeRF interface, IEEE802.11a interface,

IEEE802.11 b interface, wire wide area/local area network interface, and wireless wide

area/local area network interface (USB 215; 8/44; 9/39-42; Fig .3-4; network; 1/54; 16/44).

As to claim 30:

25.   Hirota teaches the medium used by the semiconductor storage medium module is one of a

flash memory DRAM, EEPROM, SRAM, FRAM, MRAM, and MILLIPEDE (flash memory;

10/6, 18-20).

As to claim 31:

26.   Hirota teaches the information prompt module comprises at least one of a display

component, an acoustic component and a vibration component (display 103, 203; speaker 106;

9/37-56).

As to claim 32:

27.   Hirota teaches the display component is one of a liquid crystal display, light-emitting

diode matrix display, field emission display and organic-electroluminescence (OEL) display; and

the acoustic generating component is one of a speaker, buzzer and crystal acoustic generator

(LCD 203; 9/37-40; speaker 106; 9/37-56).

As to claim 33:

28.   Hirota teaches the power source module further comprising: at least one of a voltage

adapter circuit (voltage adapter/reducer to operate memory card); and a self-contained power

source having a power control switch, wherein the self-contained power source is one of a PV

cell, a primary cell, and a rechargeable cell (power source/battery of computer/portable player 203; 8/35-67).

As to claim 34:

29.   Hirota teaches a manual control component for setting the information prompt, wherein the manual control component is used to perform the manual control of the information prompt (generate password; 14/54-55).

As to claim 35:

30.   Hirota teaches a method for realizing information prompt in a semiconductor storage apparatus (See response to claim 26) comprising a power source module providing power to the semiconductor storage apparatus; a controller module having a firmware for realizing the information prompt and data access; an interface module; a semiconductor storage medium module having a prompt information storage region for storing prompt information; and an information prompt module, wherein the controller module, the interface module, the semiconductor storage medium module, and the information prompt module are electrically connected to each other, the method **comprising**: performing data access operation of the prompt information storage region and the information prompt; verifying the password of the prompt information storage region according to the predetermined setting, and after the step of verifying the password, obtaining the necessary prompt information from the prompt information storage region; and controlling the information prompt module to perform the information prompt based on the content of the obtained prompt information(request access, authenticate password,

encrypt/decrypt data; display/access data; S701-707; S801-809; Fig. 9-10; 11/10-64; 12/21-24;14/39-16/35).

As to claim 36:

31.   Hirota teaches writing the necessary prompt information into the prompt information storage region after verifying the password (write key/password data into authentication area; 12/21-24; 13/24-28; 14/60-65; 15/45-54).

As to claim 37:

32.   Hirota teaches the operational mode of the information prompt module and the prompt information stored in the prompt information storage region is defined and modified by the information prompt storage region setting software running in the data processing system (data in authentication area defines if access mode is restricted/unrestricted; 12/21-24; 13/24-28; 14/60-65; 15/45-54).   \

As to claim 38,39,40:

33.   Hirota teaches the prompt information comprises static information and dynamic information, wherein the static information comprises the user's information, device information and storage information (user information 427; medium ID 341; master key; 425; Fig. 6,9,10).
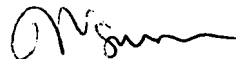
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Than Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4198. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-3pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Sparks can be reached on (571) 272-4201. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Than Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2187